MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

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Hello Mules:

Gosh, how time moves along! Here we are approaching the end of August, cool days and nights, the football team practicing twice daily on the west playing field, alterations going on around us at a great rate in preparation for the coming term, "Haps" and his faithful staff trying to keep their sanity as they struggle with schedules, rooms, and a thousand and one details, the housing project under full swing,....all these things and the service letter too. We're not complaining, just telling you of the activity that pervades the campus these days. We looked at the calendar this week and could hardly realize that it was the week for another chat with you, but it is and here goes.

I know that most of you will be interested in the change which is taking place in the USS Muhlenberg Victory. Launched last July in time to help return America's victorious troops from the European theatre, she has been designated as one of four Victory ships to be converted by the Todd shipyards into a deluxe livestock carrier, capable of transporting 860 head of cattle in "first class" accomodations. As one of the ships which will carry cattle to starving Europe, she will have most of the animals installed in "upper deck berths" where they will have plenty of fresh air and sunlight. Since animals are subject to seasickness as much as are human beings, the veterinarians, who will travel with the animals, will inspect them regularly and have injections ready for any that may become ill. To facilitate the work of the doctors, special platforms have been erected along the stalls in which there are panel openings for the convenience of the medicos. The cattle will go aboard the new type carrier, not in slings, but in sturdy covered stalls that will be lifted from the dockside to the deck.

Announcement has been made recently that HARRY STRAUSS JR. '40 former YMCA worker and Army personnel officer, has been elected director of the Allentown Veterans Service Center. Harry has been working with the Veterans Administration at Lehigh since his discharge from the Army last May. He had been elected a guidance teacher in the Allentown public schools but it is believed that he will be granted a leave of absence in order to handle his duties at the Center. Discharged with a first lieutenant's commission, his war record includes 18 months of duty in Italy.

CHAPLAIN LAWRENCE M. REESE '37, recently discharged from the Navy, has accepted a post as associate secretary of the Parish and Church School Board of the United Lutheran Church of America. Lawrence served at the Pensacola Naval Air Station and at Pearl Harbor.

Another Chaplain who has extended his tour of duty in the Navy until July 1947 is ARNOLD P. SPOHN '39. Arnold says that he has had the usual mixture of good and bad duty at different spots both in the States and abroad. After his tour of shore duty, he served on board the USS Hinsdale. At Okinawa, they received major damages from a suicide plane and returning to the States, spent a peaceful V-J Day in New York City. A cruise to Japan followed and then back to the States for decommissioning. Arnold is now on duty at the Separation Center at Shelton, (how well I remember it from my Armed Guard days there) and has occasional meetings with a classmate, WILBUR LAUDENSLAGER '39, who is located at the Lutheran Service Center in Norfolk.

IAN F. TARBET '41 has returned to his home in Philadelphia after a tour of duty with the Army. HARRY H. RANK '47 dropped me a line to say that he was leaving Korea shortly and that he planned to return to college in September. FREDERICK A. HEUER,JR '44 has taken a position with the S.E. Fricke Company in Philadelphia.

Not only will we have all the excitement of Freshman Week and the opening of college during the last two weeks of September, but LIEUTENANT WILMER H. CRESSMAN '42, USN, has decided to add to the bedlam by visiting the campus. Seriously though, we'll be glad to see Wil who has just accepted his permanent commission in the Navy and he tells me that I may as well keep on paying taxes for some time to come.

DR. CHARLES P. GOLDSMITH '36 has been taking post graduate work at New York University Graduate School of Medicine and is serving a two year residency in Ophthalmology at the Bellevue Hospital in New York City.

A grand letter from EUGENE E. LAIGON '42 was full of news about his classmates in the Army Medical Corps. Gene is stationed at the Veterans Hospital at Sunmount, N.Y., a tuberculosis hospital in the Adirondacks, and is looking forward to the winter with considerable trepidation. He reports that ART SWEETSER '42 and GENE KUTZ '43 are finishing at Hallorhan General Hospital in New York and expecting transfers to Fort Sam Houston, Texas. WILLIAM H. "BUCKY" WALTERS '42 is now with the Medics in Korea and VIC HANSEN '42 is stationed at a Veterans N.P. Hospital in Virginia.

CARLOS H. PUIG V44, according to information secured from his brother, is out of service and a very proud father of a very healthy boy. Carlos is living in Camden, N.J.

I've just discovered that we haven't given you the news of any promotions for quite some time, so here they are. CAPTAIN WOODROW W. WENDLING '37; A/C WALTER S. McCONNIE '45; PFC SPURGEON D. DUNBAR '48; S1/C FRED SCHMUNK '48; CPL WATSON W. SKINNER '46; LIEUTENANT FREDERICK S. RAKER '40; PFC. GENNARO FEDERICO '48; ENSIGN EDWARD M. BEESLEY V45; S2/C IRVING F. DAX '49; COMMANDER ELLWOOD V. BOGER '32; PFC. MICHAEL D. PINTAVALIE '47; CAPTAIN ROBERT H. DEILEY '31; MAJOR CLYDE H. KELCHNER '25; 1ST LIEUTENANT FRANK CAPOBIANCO '34; 1ST LIEUTENANT EUGENE LAIGON '42; ENSIGN SOL GRUBER V44; LIEUTENANT COMMANDER FREEMAN J. CLAUSS '39; PFC. ROBERT J. HORST '48; LIEUTENANT (jg) JOHN D. BAILEY V44; ENSIGN RICHARD S. HICKOK V44.

This seems to be the end of the news bag, gentlemen, so I will close for another time. In the next letter, I should be able to give you some real dope on the football squad. Approximately sixty boys are out for practice, but, at the moment, it is a bit too early to tell you very much about the potentialities present on the gridiron this fall. The best of luck to all of you, wherever you may be stationed, and, remember, your letters are always welcome.

As ever,

John

JOHN H. WAGNER
Alumni Secretary